

Noxious and Invasive Weed Update

Plant Protection and Weed Control

Spring 2014

Special points of interest:

- Kansas has 4 threatened and 9 endangered species from the federal list and 37 threatened and 24 endangered species on the state list.
- At this time the state of Kansas has only one Endangered Species Protection Bulletin in effect in addition to 7 Voluntary County Bulletins.

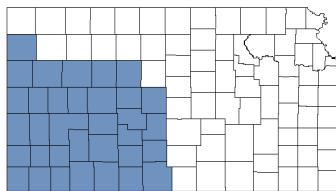
Inside this issue:

Lesser Prairie Chicken	1
KDA is Relocating to Manhattan	1
Control Corner: Cost Share Herbicides	2
Integrated Weed Management: Inventory	
Invasive Species Spotlight: Tree-of-heaven	3

Sign up to receive the Noxious and Invasive Weed Update automatically via email at www.ksda.gov

The Lesser Prairie-chicken and Noxious Weeds

In March of this year the US Fish and Wildlife Service listed the lesser prairie-chicken as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as well as a special rule under a section of the ESA that will limit regulatory impacts on landowners and businesses. A threatened listing means the species is likely to become in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future. The decision was made in response to the rapid and severe decline of the bird.



The lesser prairie-chicken is known or believed to occur in 34 counties in western Kansas from the Colorado border east to Barton County and from the Oklahoma border north to Sherman County in the western part of the state and Barton County in the eastern edge of its range.

After the listing was made public, I spoke with an Agricultural Advisor with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to find out what impact this listing would have on noxious weed control programs in Kansas. He assured me that, because the herbicides applied to Kansas' noxious weeds are not toxic to the prairie-chicken, no

restrictions to the control of noxious weeds are planned at this time.

If the EPA thought there might be impacts on a ESA listed species through the application of pesticides, they would issue an Endangered Species Protection Bulletin for each county impacted. These bulletins list the pesticides of concern, their use limitations, the species being protected and other information.



Thanks to USFWS and EPA for information used in writing this article.

KDA is Relocating to Manhattan

The majority of the Kansas Department of Agriculture will be relocating from Topeka to Manhattan this summer. Those programs currently working out of the Mills Building on 9th Street in downtown Topeka will be moving into the new office by the end of June. A couple of programs working out of the Field Office in Forbes Field will also be moving although their moving dates have yet to be determined. Part of the Plant Protection and Weed Control program, including

the Noxious Weeds program are among the groups moving out of Forbes Field.



The instigation of the move is the fact that the lease for the Mills Building is about to expire and the Secretary of Agriculture decided to find a new site for the de-

partment rather than renew the lease.

The new building is now under construction but will be open for business on June 16. The location is off of North Manhattan Avenue just east of the planned National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility. The address will be 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, KS 66502. The phone number for the new building has not yet been determined.

Please come see us in our new digs!

Integrated Weed Management: Part 3 - Inventory

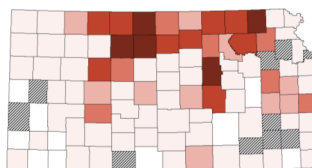
The need for a good weed inventory is pretty simple; you need to know where the weeds are before you can control them.

Conducting a survey, the process for acquiring an inventory, one simply has to walk throughout their land and count the number of acres infested with each weed. In fact, depending upon how accurate you would like your inventory to be, you can walk a part of your land and “extrapolate” the data to encompass your entire property.

Each county Weed Director does this each year to find out how many acres of noxious weeds are in their

county. Because the counties are so large, the average size is almost 500,000 acres, that they cannot survey the entire county each year. Therefore, they survey 10 sections (6,400 acres) and do some basic math to calculate from their results how many acres of each species are in their county. This allows them to plan how much herbicide to purchase, how much time to plan for spraying and how to budget for the coming year. It also allows both the counties and the state to know whether the weed populations are growing or shrinking.

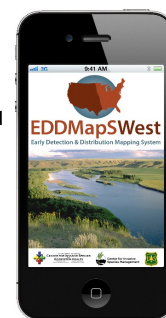
You as landowners can



benefit in much the same way. A survey will let you know where the weeds are on your land and the resulting inventory will help you plan your control projects. The changes from year to year will help you determine how effective your current management plan is.

A Global Positioning System (GPS) unit is a very effective tool in conducting a survey and a Geographic Information System program will let you download

your GPS data onto your computer and map the location and size of your weed infestations. If you do not have these tools, there are still ways to conduct an inventory. If you have a smartphone you can download the ED-MapS West app and use it to both locate the weeds and map them. All points uploaded from the app go to the ED-MapS website and are plotted on a map that you can use to watch the changes in your weed infestations.



Control Corner: Cost Share Herbicides for Noxious Weed Control

By law every county weed program has to provide herbicides for the county landowners for the control of noxious weeds. They also have to provide these herbicides at a cost share price. Keep in mind that the counties are limited to 28 herbicides they are allowed to sell and most counties do not sell all 28. The herbicides approved for cost share are listed on our website at agriculture.ks.com. They carry only those herbicides that are labeled for those noxious weeds that grow in their county and those that are most popular with their landowners.



The prices charged for these herbicides vary from county to county and from year to year so you will have to contact your county weed department to find out what they are currently charging.

Another way of selling cost share herbicides that some Weed Departments are using is the voucher pro-

gram. With this program a landowner will go to the weed department office and tell a member of the weed program which herbicide he or she needs and



how much. The Director will give the landowner a voucher good for that herbicide and tell him or her which retailer to take it to.

The retailer will then sell the landowner the herbicide for the cost share price. This helps the county when they do not have the storage space or personnel to sell the herbicides directly.

Some counties also have equipment such as sprayers available for rent. If you are interested, contact your county weed department.





Plant Protection and Weed Control

Any questions comments or article suggestions, please contact:

Scott S. Marsh
State Weeds Specialist
P.O. Box 19282
Forbes Field, Bldg. 282
Topeka, KS 66619
Phone: (785) 862-2180
Fax: (785) 862-2182
E-mail: scott.marsh@kda.ks.gov

Visit our website at:
www.ksda.gov

Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, range-lands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

Our mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantined pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

Invasive Species Spotlight

Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Tree-of-heaven is an escaped ornamental usually found in neglected urban areas but has introduced itself into woodland edges in rural areas in about 30 counties throughout Kansas.

It has smooth gray bark and deep brown twigs. The leaves are 1 to 4 feet long and are composed of a long main stem with 10 to 40 leaflets growing from both sides of the main stem. When crushed the leaves are said to give off a strong peanut butter odor. It is a threat to the environ-

ment in several different ways. First of all, each tree produces a large number of seeds (up to 350,000) each year and those seeds have a high germination rate. Secondly, the trees produce a toxic substance in their bark and leaves which restricts native plants from growing in the same areas and further reduces their ability to compete. Third, they produce shoots from its roots and stump. These factors, and more, make tree-of-heaven difficult to control. Cutting, pulling and digging are often counter-

productive due to the stump and root sprouts. The most effective control is through the application of herbicides such as triclopyr or imazapyr. These are best applied to the base of the tree stem in the late winter or early spring. When attempting to control tree-of-heaven it is important that you carefully identify the tree to avoid causing damage to similar looking natives such as walnut, ash and hickory trees.

Photos by Leslie J. Mehrhoff

